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EXAMINER

ALSOMIRI, ISAM A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3662

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Group 1 (claim 1-23 and 64) in the reply filed on June 29, 2006 is acknowledged. Applicant has cancelled the non-elected claims (24-63 and 65-66) without presenting an amended listing of the claims indicating the cancelled claims. Applicant response should include a current listing of the claims.

Drawings

New formal drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The formal drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claim 15 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 15 line 2 "said said", the repeated word should be deleted. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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Claims 2-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 2 recites the limitation "said first wavelength" in lines 2-3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It appears the "said first wavelength" is referring to the primary wavelength in claim 1, for examination purposes it will be interpreted as such. Claims 3-12 depend on claim 2 and are rejected for the same reason.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. **Claims 1, 17-18, 21, and 64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Segre et al. US 3,963,347.** Referring to claims 1 and 64, Segre discloses in figure 12 a lidar system (see abstract) comprising: a transmitter (94) for transmitting an optical beam having a primary wavelength between about 1.5 - 1.8 microns and having a first value of divergence (see col. 4 line 56); and a receiver (50 in figure 3) for receiving scattered radiation of said optical beam, said receiver having a second value of field of view defined by a detector surface and detector optics (see figures 3 and 12, col. 4 lines 34-39); wherein said second value field of view of said

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detector subsystem is at least about as great as said first value of divergence of said transmitter subsystem (see col. 4 lines 56-58).

2. Referring to claim 17, Segre teaches said transmitted optical beam and said received scattered radiation are substantially coaxial (see figure 12, the transmitted and reflected beams are indicated by arrows).
3. Referring to claim 18, Segre teaches said second value is .5 milliradians, and the first value is also .5 milliradians (see col. 4 lines 56-58), which reads on between about 1.0 and 1.5 times said first value.
4. Referring to claim 21, Segre teaches said optical beam has a pulse energy of about 100 m J/pulse (col. 2 lines 54-57).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. **Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Segre et al. US 3,963,347 in view of Cheng et al US 20030016350A1.** Referring to claims 13-14, Segre teaches a collection optics (104 and 106) for collecting said backscattered radiation into a compressed beam, a detector (50) for converting incident radiation into an electrical signal representative of said incident radiation (see figures 3 and 9). Segre does not teach a focusing optics interposed between said collection

optics and said detector for receiving said compressed beam and directing said compressed beam onto an active detector surface of said detector. Cheng teaches a similar Lidar system including a receiver with a focusing optics (4) between the collection optics (6) and the detector (8) (see figure 1-3). It would have been obvious to include the focusing lens and the receiver of Cheng for a better and a more efficient receiver for detecting backscattered light returns.

2. Further, Segre discloses the collection optics (104 and 106) which makes up the claimed telescope. However, even if it does not form a telescope; Cheng teaches collection optics as a telescope (6) (see figure 1). It would have been obvious to modify Segre to include the telescope to collect all the scattered reflection from the desired target and direction accurately.

3. Referring to claim 15, the combination of Segre and Cheng teaches said receiver further comprises a collimator (Lens between 5 and 7 in figure 1 of Cheng) disposed between said collection optics (6) and said focusing optics (4) for collimating said compressed beam and a filter (7), disposed between said collimator and said focusing optics, for filtering said compressed beam on a wavelength dependent basis. It would have been obvious to include the receiver of Cheng for a better and a more efficient receiver for detecting backscattered light returns and reducing unwanted signals.

4. **Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Segre et al. US 3,963,347 in view of Cheng et al US 20030016350A1 and Kurnit et al *"Generation of 1.54um Radiation with Application to an Eye-Safe Laser Lidar"*.**

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The combination of Segre and Cheng do not teach the detector comprises an InGaAs conversion medium. Kurnit teaches a similar system which uses an InGaAs detector instead of avalanche photodetector (see page 610 lines 11-13). It would have been obvious to modify the combination of Segre and Cheng to use the InGaAs detector for it's better signal to noise ratio.

5. **Claims 2-3, 8-9 11-12, 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Segre et al. US 3,963,347 in view of Kurnit et al *"Generation of 1.54um Radiation with Application to an Eye-Safe Laser Lidar"*.** Referring to claim 2, Segre does not teach said transmitter comprises a laser pump for providing a source beam having a source wavelength different than said first wavelength and a wavelength shifter for shifting said source beam from said source wavelength to said first wavelength. Kurnit teaches a source beam having a source wavelength (YAG wavelength) different than said first wavelength 1.54 micron and a wavelength shifter (Raman cell) for shifting said source beam from said source wavelength to said first wavelength (see figure 1). It would have been obvious to modify Segre to replace the 1.54 micron laser with the laser of Kurnit in figure 4 to obtain the same 1.54 micron beam with more power.
6. Referring to claim 3, the combination of Segre and Kurnit teaches said wavelength shifter comprises a Raman wavelength shifter (see Abstract Kurnit).
7. Referring to claim 8, the combination of Segre and Kurnit teaches said transmitter further comprises a beam compressor (Beam reducer-figure 1 in Kurnit)

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disposed between said laser pump and said Raman wavelength shifter for compressing said source beam from a first width to a second width less than said first width (inherent in a BEAM REDUCER) substantially free from focusing in relation to said Raman wavelength shifter (see figure 1 in Kurnit).

8. Referring to claim 9, the combination of Segre and Kurnit teaches the transmitter further comprises a gas circulation system for circulating a gas relative to a housing of said Raman wavelength shifter (see Kurnit page 16-18).
9. Referring to claim 11, the combination of Segre and Kurnit teaches said transmitter further comprises a beam expander (see figure 1 in Kurnit) for receiving said optical beam from said Raman wavelength shifter and expanding said beam from a first beamwidth to a second beamwidth greater than said first beamwidth (inherent in a beam expander).
10. Referring to claim 12, the combination of Segre and Kurnit teaches said transmitter further comprises a filter (Kurnit page 609 lines 20-21) for receiving an output beam from said Raman wavelength shifter and removing a component therefrom associated with said source wavelength (see figure 1 in Kurnit, the source beam is goes in the Beam dump which is filtered by the Dichroic crystal or lens).
11. Referring to claim 23, the combination of Segre and Kurnit are silent about said receiver comprises a processor for generating an atmospheric aerosol image based on data acquired in less than 1 second by said detector. However, using a very fast receiver and processor would have been very well known to use. It would have been obvious to modify Segre and Kurnit to use the best and fastest receiver and processor

to generate the aerosol image in less than 1 second. Further, having receivers and processors at the time of the invention that produces data in a fraction of a second were very well known.

12. **Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Segre et al. US 3,963,347 in view of Kurnit et al “*Generation of 1.54um Radiation with Application to an Eye-Safe Laser Lidar*” and Shoshan et al US 5,058,117.** The combination of Segre and Kurnit do not teach said Raman wavelength shifter includes at least one internal reflectance element for redirecting said beam within a housing of said Raman wavelength shifter substantially free from surface reflection. Shoshan discloses in figure 2 a Raman converter or shifter 11, including one internal reflectance element (58) for redirecting said beam within a housing of the Raman shifter 11 (see col. 2 lines 15-17, and 57-61). It would have been obvious to modify the combination of Segre and Kurnit to include the internal reflectance element (prism 58) instead of reflecting mirrors to reduce the beam loss. Further, Shoshan does not mention that the Raman shifter 11 includes a housing. However, it is inherent that label 11 in figure 2 is a housing, because it is very necessary to block ambient light. Further, even if label 11 in figure 2 is not a housing. It is very well known and would have been obvious to include a housing that cover the Raman shifter 11 to reduce noises from ambient light.
13. **Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Segre et al. US 3,963,347 in view of Kurnit et al “*Generation of 1.54um Radiation with***

Application to an Eye-Safe Laser Lidar" and **Begley et al US 4,095,121**. The combination of Segre and Kurnit do not teach said Raman wavelength shifter comprises at least one optical element disposed at a Brewster angle with respect to said beam. Begley teaches a Raman shifter with windows (16 and 22) at a Brewster angle (see figure 3). It would have been obvious to modify the combination of Segre and Kurnit to include the windows in the Raman shifter at a Brewster angle to get total transmittance or reduce cost by eliminating anti-reflection coatings.

14. **Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Segre et al. US 3,963,347 in view of Kurnit et al "*Generation of 1.54um Radiation with Application to an Eye-Safe Laser Lidar"* and Cardimona US 4,858,238.** Referring to claim 6, the combination of Segre and Kurnit do not teach a seed laser for providing a seed beam for transmission to said Raman wavelength shifter-together with said source beam. Cardimona teaches a seed laser (100) for transmission to a Raman shifter (180) together with a source beam (110). It would have been obvious to modify the above combination of Segre and Kurnit to include the seed laser to increase the efficiency of the Raman cell allowing more power output with a shorter cell length.
15. Referring to claim 7, it is inherent that the source beam and said seed beam have substantially equal beamwidths and are arranged for substantially coaxial transmission to said Raman wavelength Shifter for enhancing the Stokes radiations. Further, even if Cardimona does not teach the substantially equal beamwidths. It would

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have been very well known and obvious to modify the combination of Segre, Kurnit, and Cardimona to have the equal beamwidths to enhance the Strokes radiations.

16. **Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Segre et al. US 3,963,347 in view of Kurnit et al “*Generation of 1.54um Radiation with Application to an Eye-Safe Laser Lidar*” and Krapchev US 5414723A.**

Referring to claim 10, the combination of Segre and Kurnit do not teach said gas circulation system comprises a gas pump disposed outside of said housing. Krapchev teaches a similar system including the use of a pump (32) disposed outside of the housing to circulate the active medium (see col. 4 lines 58-59, figure 1). It would have been obvious to modify the combination of Segre and Kurnit to use the outside gas pump to circulate the active medium instead of the internal fan because it is easier to replace the outside pump then the internal fan.

17. **Claims 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Segre et al. US 3,963,347 in view of Schwartz Electro-Optics (SEO) “*Final report on High energy, Eyesafe Lidar for Long-Range, High-Resolution Aerosol Detection*”.** Referring to claim 19, Segre is silent about including a scanner for scanning said optical beam relative to at least one scan axis. SEO teaches a similar system including a beam steering mirror to steer the beam toward the target (see page 82 2nd paragraph), which reads on the claimed “scanning said optical beam relative to at

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least one scan axis". It would have been obvious to modify Segre to include the beam steering mirror to illuminate the desired targets easily.

18. Referring to claim 20, the combination of Segre and SEO are silent about having a scanner to scan the optical beam relative to two axes. However, it would have been very well known to use a scanner that scans in two axes to direct the beam at targets in all directions.

19. **Claims 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Segre et al. US 3,963,347 in view of Guch, Jr. et al US 6580732B1.** Segre is silent about having the pulse repetition frequency PRF of at least 10 Hz. Guch teaches a similar system that uses an eye-safe laser at 1.57 micron and PRF in the one hundreds of Hz (see col. 4 line 3-7). It would have been obvious to modify Segre to use the transmitter of Guch that operates at 1.57 micron and 100 Hz PRF to achieve efficient laser pulses at high pulse rates.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422

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F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

1. **Claims 1, 13, 16-18, 21, and 64 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 2 of copending Application No. 11/291,505 in view of Segre et al. US 3,963,347.** Regarding claims 1, 13, 18, 64, copending claim 2 teaches all the limitation except for the optical beam (transmitted) having a first value of divergence and the detector having a second value of divergence about as great as the first value. Segre teaches a similar system where the both divergence are equal (see col. 4 lines 56-58). It would have been obvious to modify claim 2 to include the divergence values of Segre to capture all the return signals.
2. Regarding claim 17, Segre teaches the transmitted beam and the received radiation are substantially coaxial (see figure 9). It would have been obvious to modify claim 2 to include coaxial transmission and receiving to detect reflection from the desired location accurately.
3. Regarding claim 21, Segre teaches said optical beam has a pulse energy of about 100 mJ/pulse (col. 2 lines 54-57). It would have been obvious to modify claim 2 to transmit a pulse with 100 mJ/pulse for stronger reflections.

4. Regarding claims 13 and 16, claim 2 teaches the collection optics, and the detector, and the optical lens with map the entire lidar beam to an active detector surface, which reads on the focusing lens. Further, it's inherent the collection optics compresses the beam; and even if doesn't compress the beam, it would have been very obvious to modify claim 2 to have a collection optics that compresses the beam for fast and accurate detection of all the return signals. Further, it would have been very well known to use an InGaAs as a detector for its good signal to noise ratio.
5. **Claims 14-15 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 2 of copending Application No. 11/291,505 in view of Segre et al. US 3,963,347 and Cheng et al US 20030016350A1.** Regarding claim 14, Cheng teaches collection optics as a telescope (6) (see figure 1). It would have been obvious to modify the combination of claim 2 and Segre to include the telescope to collect all the scattered reflection from the desired target and direction accurately.
6. Regarding claim 15, Cheng teaches said receiver further comprises a collimator (Lens between 5 and 7 in figure 1 of Cheng) disposed between said collection optics (6) and said focusing optics (4) for collimating said compressed beam and a filter (7), disposed between said collimator and said focusing optics, for filtering said compressed beam on a wavelength dependent basis. It would have been obvious to include the receiver of Cheng for a better and a more efficient receiver for detecting backscattered light returns and reducing unwanted signals.

7. **Claims 2-3, 8-9, 11-12, 23 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 2 of copending Application No. 11/291,505 in view of Segre et al. US 3,963,347 and Kurnit et al.** Regarding claim 2, copending claim 2 and Segre do not teach said transmitter comprises a laser pump for providing a source beam having a source wavelength different than said first wavelength and a wavelength shifter for shifting said source beam from said source wavelength to said first wavelength. Kurnit teaches a source beam having a source wavelength (YAG wavelength) different than said first wavelength 1.54 micron and a wavelength shifter (Raman cell) for shifting said source beam from said source wavelength to said first wavelength (see figure 1). It would have been obvious to modify the combination of claim 2 and Segre to use the laser of Kurnit in figure 4 to obtain the same eye safe 1.54 micron beam with more power.
8. Regarding claim 3, the combination of claim 2, Segre and Kurnit teaches said wavelength shifter comprises a Raman wavelength shifter (see Abstract Kurnit).
9. Regarding claim 8, the combination of claim 2, Segre, and Kurnit teaches said transmitter further comprises a beam compressor (Beam reducer-figure 1 in Kurnit) disposed between said laser pump and said Raman wavelength shifter for compressing said source beam from a first width to a second width less than said first width (inherent in a BEAM REDUCER) substantially free from focusing in relation to said Raman wavelength shifter (see figure 1 in Kurnit).

10. Regarding claim 9, the combination of claim 2, Segre and Kurnit teaches the transmitter further comprises a gas circulation system for circulating a gas relative to a housing of said Raman wavelength shifter (see Kurnit page 16-18).
11. Regarding claim 11, the combination of claim 2, Segre, and Kurnit teaches said transmitter further comprises a beam expander (see figure 1 in Kurnit) for receiving said optical beam from said Raman wavelength shifter and expanding said beam from a first beamwidth to a second beamwidth greater than said first beamwidth (inherent in a beam expander).
12. Regarding claim 12, the combination of claim 2, Segre, and Kurnit teaches said transmitter further comprises a filter (Kurnit page 609 lines 20-21) for receiving an output beam from said Raman wavelength shifter and removing a component therefrom associated with said source wavelength (see figure 1 in Kurnit, the source beam is goes in the Beam dump which is filtered by the Dichroic crystal or lens).
13. Regarding claim 23, the combination of claim 2, Segre, and Kurnit are silent about said receiver comprises a processor for generating an atmospheric aerosol image based on data acquired in less than 1 second by said detector. However, using a very fast receiver and processor would have been very well known to use. It would have been obvious to modify claim 2, Segre, and Kurnit to use the best and fastest receiver and processor to generate the aerosol image in less than 1 second. Further, having receivers and processors at the time of the invention that produces data in a fraction of a second were very well known.

14. **Claim 4 is provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 2 of copending Application No. 11/291,505 in view of Segre et al. US 3,963,347, Kurnit et al and Shoshan et al US 5,058,117.** The combination of claim 2, Segre, and Kurnit do not teach said Raman wavelength shifter includes at least one internal reflectance element for redirecting said beam within a housing of said Raman wavelength shifter substantially free from surface reflection. Shoshan discloses in figure 2 a Raman converter or shifter 11, including one internal reflectance element (58) for redirecting said beam within a housing of the Raman shifter 11 (see col. 2 lines 15-17, and 57-61). It would have been obvious to modify the combination of claim 2, Segre, and Kurnit to include the internal reflectance element (prism 58) instead of reflecting mirrors to reduce the beam loss. Further, Shoshan does not mention that the Raman shifter 11 includes a housing. However, it is inherent that label 11 in figure 2 is a housing, because it is very necessary to block ambient light. Further, even if label 11 in figure 2 is not a housing. It is very well known and would have been obvious to include a housing that cover the Raman shifter 11 to reduce noises from ambient light.
15. **Claim 5 is provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 2 of copending Application No. 11/291,505 in view of Segre et al. US 3,963,347, Kurnit et al and Begley et al US 4,095,121.** The combination of claim 2, Segre, and Kurnit do not teach said Raman wavelength shifter comprises at least one optical element

disposed at a Brewster angle with respect to said beam. Begley teaches a Raman shifter with windows (16 and 22) at a Brewster angle (see figure 3). It would have been obvious to modify the combination of claim 2, Segre and Kurnit to include the windows in the Raman shifter at a Brewster angle to get total transmittance or reduce cost by eliminating anti-reflection coatings.

16. **Claims 6-7 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 2 of copending Application No. 11/291,505 in view of Segre et al. US 3,963,347, Kurnit et al, and Cardimona US 4,858,238.** Regarding claim 6, the combination of claim 2, Segre, and Kurnit do not teach a seed laser for providing a seed beam for transmission to said Raman wavelength shifter-together with said source beam. Cardimona teaches a seed laser (100) for transmission to a Raman shifter (180) together with a source beam (110). It would have been obvious to modify the above combination of Segre and Kurnit to include the seed laser to increase the efficiency of the Raman cell allowing more power output with a shorter cell length.
17. Regarding claim 7, it is inherent that the source beam and said seed beam have substantially equal beamwidths and are arranged for substantially coaxial transmission to said Raman wavelength Shifter for enhancing the Stokes radiations. Further, even if Cardimona does not teach the substantially equal beamwidths. It would have been very well known and obvious to modify the combination of claim 2, Segre, Kurnit, and Cardimona to have the equal beamwidths to enhance the Stokes radiations.

18. **Claim 10 is provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 2 of copending Application No. 11/291,505 in view of Segre et al. US 3,963,347, Kurnit et al and Krapchev US 5414723A.** Regarding claim 10, the combination of claim 2, Segre, and Kurnit do not teach said gas circulation system comprises a gas pump disposed outside of said housing. Krapchev teaches a similar system including the use of a pump (32) disposed outside of the housing to circulate the active medium (see col. 4 lines 58-59, figure 1). It would have been obvious to modify the combination of claim 2, Segre, and Kurnit to use the outside gas pump to circulate the active medium instead of the internal fan because it is easier to replace the outside pump then the internal fan.
19. **Claims 19-20 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 2 of copending Application No. 11/291,505 in view of Segre et al. US 3,963,347, and Schwartz Electro-Optics (SEO).** Regarding claim 19, the combination of claim 2 and Segre is silent about including a scanner for scanning said optical beam relative to at least one scan axis. SEO teaches a similar system including a beam steering mirror to steer the beam toward the target (see page 82 2nd paragraph), which reads on the claimed "scanning said optical beam relative to at least one scan axis". It would have been obvious to modify Segre to include the beam steering mirror to illuminate the desired targets easily.

20. Referring to claim 20, the combination of claim 2, Segre, and SEO are silent about having a scanner to scan the optical beam relative to two axes. However, it would have been very well known to use a scanner that scans in two axes to direct the beam at targets in all directions.

21. **Claim 22 is provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 2 of copending Application No. 11/291,505 in view of Segre et al. US 3,963,347, and Guch, Jr. et al US 6580732B1.** The combination of claim 2 and Segre is silent about having the pulse repetition frequency PRF of at least 10 Hz. Guch teaches a similar system that uses an eye-safe laser at 1.57 micron and PRF in the one hundreds of Hz (see col. 4 line 3-7). It would have been obvious to modify Segre to use the transmitter of Guch that operates at 1.57 micron and 100 Hz PRF to achieve efficient laser pulses at high pulse rates.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isam Alsomiri whose telephone number is 571-272-6970. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Tarcza can be reached on 571-272-6979. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Isam Alsomiri

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Isam Alsomiri', with a stylized flourish at the end.

September 10, 2006